

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 14 are pending. Claim 4 and 9 have been amended, and new claims 12-14 have been added.

Claim 9 has been amended for clarification.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 1-3 and 9-11 are considered allowable. New claims 12-14 recite similar features as claims 1-3 and are considered allowable for at least the same reasons. Remaining claims 4-8 are also considered allowable for at least the following reasons.

Claims 4-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,568). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 4 recites a light source for a photodetector array based spectrometer. The light source comprises a primary light source producing a primary spectral output. The primary light source has a spectral range of from about 580 nm to about 1080 nm, and the primary spectral output results in a system response curve. The light source further comprises one, or more than one secondary light source producing a secondary spectral output complementary to the primary spectral output. Claim 4 has been amended to recite that the system response curve has one, or more than one spectral band falling below a predetermined value within the spectral range of from about 580 nm to about 750 nm, or from about 850 nm to about 1080 nm, or both. Claim 4 has been further amended to recite that the secondary spectral output has a spectral range of from about 580 nm to about 750 nm, or from about 850 nm to about 1080 nm, or both. The secondary spectral output combines with the primary spectral output to produce a more uniform system response curve that is flatter than the system response curve obtained when the primary light source alone is used.

Miller et al. discloses a spectral illuminator comprising a plurality of LED lamps producing light of wavelengths that span a spectral range of interest (column 4, lines 41-42; Fig. 1). Miller et al. further discloses that the LED lamps of the spectral illuminator have a spectral width of less than 35 nm (see, for example, column 5, lines 43-54), and that the illuminator can include broad-band LED sources (column 7, line 64-66). Miller et al. does not, however, disclose or suggest a light source which comprises a primary light source having a spectral range of from about 580 nm to about 1080 nm, and one, or more than one secondary light source having a spectral output complementary to the spectral output of the primary light

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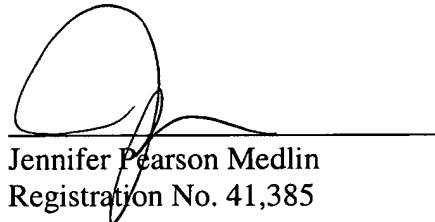
source, wherein the spectral output of the secondary light source has a spectral range of from about 580 nm to about 750 nm, or from about 850 nm to about 1080 nm, or both, as set forth in amended Claim 4. Claim 4 is therefore considered allowable over Miller. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 5-8 depend ultimately from claim 4 and are considered allowable for at least the same reasons.

For the foregoing reasons, claims 1-14 are considered to be in condition for allowance. A Notice to this effect is respectfully solicited. If any questions remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully Submitted,

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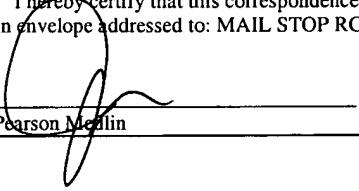


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